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PATENTS

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: )  
Balmer et al. ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Serial No.: 09/977,175 ) Group Art Unit: 1725  
Filed: October 12, 2001 ) Docket No.: A148 1610.1  
For: THREE DIMENSIONAL WELDING )  
ROD AND SURFACE COVERING )

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby voluntarily disclose the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents. Copies of items A-C are enclosed herewith.

Applicants further reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed information should they be applied as references, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer. This statement further should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that the information cited herewith is material, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present Application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the information submitted herein. On the contrary, the Examiner is requested to conduct an

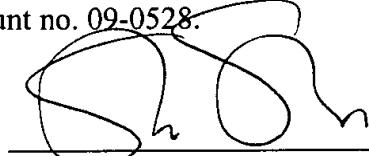
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independent and thorough review of the information, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 and to indicate in the official file wrapper of the above-identified patent application that each item of the cited information has been considered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to account no. 09-0528.

Date: 3/7/02



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Docket No.: A148 1610.1

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Cherry West